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PCT #4

Docket No.: A5868.0035
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Ichiro Koguma et al.

Application No.: 10/531,568

Confirmation No.: NYA

Filed: April 18, 2005

Art Unit: Not yet assigned

For: HYDROPHILIC MICROPOROUS
MEMBRANE

Examiner: Hai Vo

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Timing of Filing of the Information Disclosure Statement:

- ☒ This IDS is being filed before the First Office Action¹.
- ☐ This IDS is being filed after the issuance of the First Office Action but before the issuance of a Final Office Action².

¹ The IDS should, where possible, include a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).

² The IDS *must* include *either* a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) *or* the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /AF/

- ☐ This IDS is being filed after the issuance of a Final Office Action but before the payment of the Final Fee³.

Certifications:

If checked, the undersigned makes the following statement(s):

- ☐ Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement; or

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

- ☐ Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application less than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Fee Required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) or 1.97(d)(2):

- ☐ If checked, the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is attached.

³ The IDS *must* include *both* a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) *and* the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Copies of Information:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a), the following are enclosed:

- ☒ A legible copy⁴ of each document (or relevant portion thereof) is cited in the attached PTO/SB/08.
- ☒ With respect to any information which is not in English, a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, is attached. This concise explanation is provided by way of:
 - ☐ A translation of the relevant portions of the non-English language information⁵;
 - ☐ A statement explaining the relevant portions of the non-English language information;
 - ☒ A copy [and, where not in the English language, a translation] of at least the relevant portion(s)⁶ of the communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application in which the information was cited; or
 - ☐ This information is contained in the specification of the present application.

⁴ A legible copy of the document is not required if (1) the information was previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office and considered by the Office in a prior U.S. application to which this application claims priority, provided that the prior application is properly identified in this IDS, and (2) the IDS submitted in the earlier application complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) – (c). This exception does not apply to information cited in an International Application.

⁵ 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(ii) *requires* that an English language translation be provided when a translation of the document, or portion thereof, “is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).”

⁶ The relevant portion is that portion which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. This may be an explanation of which portion of the of the reference is particularly relevant, to which claims it applies or merely a recitation of the reference in the foreign patent office report. MPEP §609.01(a)(3)

☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), copies of the cited documents are not enclosed as they were provided in application Serial No. _____, filed on _____, which the present application relies upon for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

Materiality:

Whether or not the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement is "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

In the event the actual fee is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

Dated: July 25, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
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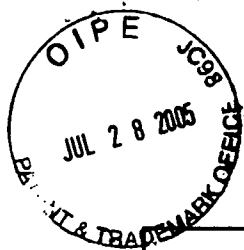
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			Complete if Known		
			Application Number	10/531,568	
			Filing Date	April 18, 2005	
			First Named Inventor	Ichiro Koguma et al.	
			Art Unit	Not yet known	
			Examiner Name	Not yet known	
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	A5868.0035

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US 5,017,292	05-21-1991	DiLeo et al.	
	AB	US2003/0209485 A1	11-13-2003	Kools	
	AC	US 4,539,256	09-03-1985	Shipman	
	AD	US 6,096,213	08-01-2000	Radovanovic et al.	
	AE	US 4,247,498	01-00-1981	Castro	
	AF	US 4,937,115	06-00-1990	Leatherman	
	AG	US 6,299,773	10-00-2001	Takamura et al.	
	AH	US 5,514,461	05-07-1996	Meguro et al.	
	AI	US 4,399,035	08-16-1983	Nohmi et al.	
	AJ	US 2004/0023017 A1	02-05-2004	Nagoya et al.	
	AK	US 4,845,132	07-04-1989	Masuoka et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	WO 01/05492 A1	01-25-2001	Sternberg et al.		
	BB	WO 01/28667 A1	04-26-2001			
	BC	EP 1 206 961 A1	05-22-2002			
	BD	EP 1 063 256 A1	12-27-2000			
	BE	EP 0 302 949 A1	02-15-1989			
	BF	WO 95/23640 A1	09-00-1995	Ditter et al.		
	BG	WO 02/102500	12-27-2002	Muller et al.		
	BH	JP-A-8-168658	04-07-1998			
	BI	JP 2001 157827	06-12-2001			
	BJ	JP 2001 190940	07-17-2001			
	BK	WO 99/47593	09-23-1999			
	BL	JP 7173323	07-11-1995			
	BM	EP-0 365 112-A2	04-25-1990	Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company		
	BN	EP-0 297 744-A2	01-04-1989	Imperial Chemical Industries PLC		
	BO	WO-98/39379-A1	09-11-1998	Asahi Kasei Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha		
	BP	WO-93/04223-A1	03-04-1993	Dow Chemical Co		
	BQ	JP 2000-15066A (w/ abstract)	01-18-2000			
	BR	JP 5-506883A (w/ abstract)	10-07-1993			
	BS	JP 3-502180A (w/ abstract)	05-23-1991			
	BT	JP 60-97001A (w/ abstract)	05-30-1985			
	BU	JP 59-64640A (w/ abstract)	04-12-1984			
	BV	JP 58-91732A (w/ abstract)	05-31-1983			

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Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	A5868.0035

/AF-/	BW	JP 59-16503A (w/ abstract)	01-27-1984			
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

/Ana Fortuna/ (03/06/2008)

03/06/2008

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